

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action identified above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Block et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0050976). Based on the following reasoning, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.¹

I. The Rejection of Claims 1-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Block et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), each and every element as set forth in the claims must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Block et al. fails to teach each and every recitation of claims 1-24.

Claim 1 recites a combination including *inter alia*, “summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics.” Block et al. fails to disclose at least this claim element. Block et al. discloses a website structure wherein “each registered user will have a home page with personal information.” (Abstract.) Block et al. further discloses that the “personal home page, and the pages linked behind it, display summaries of the information

¹ As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to certain assertions or requirements applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

to which the individual has access, in the communities of which they are a member. This includes schedule information for communities that an individual's children are members of. All schedule information from all their communities is displayed together on a personal schedule page, with most current upcoming events being displayed on a schedule capsule on the personal home page. All messages from all of their communities are displayed together on a personal home page.” (Paragraph 25) However, these passages fail to teach “summary messages which summarize messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics,” as recited in claim 1. That is, summaries of schedule information cannot constitute the “summary messages” as recited in the claim. Indeed, Block et al., as shown above, discloses that “all messages from all of their communities are displayed” and is silent as to the summary messages in the manner recited in the claim. Therefore, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 7 and 13, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 1. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 7 and 13 for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend from claim 1, 7, and 13, respectively. As explained, claims 1, 7, and 13 recite elements not disclosed by Block et al. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are allowable over Block et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1, 7, and 13.² Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

² As Applicants' remarks with respect to the base independent claims are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejection of all claims dependent therefrom, Applicants' silence as to the Examiner's assertions with respect to dependent

Claims 19, 21, and 23, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 1. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 19, 21, and 23 for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 20 recites a combination including *inter alia*, “providing a search result list consisting of message search results limited on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community.” Block et al. fails to disclose at least this claim element. The Examiner alleges that Block et al.’s teaching of displaying “all messages sent from individuals who are also Members of the website and from the Administration of the different Teams and Leagues in which the individual is a Participant” after the individual requests the system to display “My Messages” constitutes the search request as recited in the claim. (OA at 7; Block et al. at Paragraphs 121-22.)³ However, this teaching does not constitute a teaching of the search process in the manner recited in the claim. Indeed, no searching takes place in the passages cited by the Examiner or in any other passages of Block et al.

Claims 22 and 24, although of different scope, recite elements similar to that discussed above with regard to claim 20. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to

claims is not a concession by Applicants to the Examiner's assertions as to these claims, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such assertions in the future.

³ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

withdraw the rejection of claims 22 and 24 for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 29.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of claims 1-24.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-24 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments to claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24 do not raise any new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their claimed relationships were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

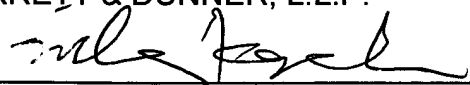
Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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